



The MINUTEMAN

THE MONTHLY RECRUITING NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD • NOV. 2014

HIGH TECH

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FROM THE COMMANDER



By
MAJ AUGUST T. MURRAY, Ph.D.

Commander, TXARNG
Recruiting & Retention Bn.

Giving thanks, and focusing on new momentum

October was an incredible month in Recruiting and Retention.

The month started with a Change of Command at the Capital and the promotion of 1SG Dyer, HHC, and 1SG Hebert, Region I.

Later in the month, we celebrated numerous achievements from FY14 at the Annual Training and Award Dinner at Lackland AFB in San Antonio.

MG Smith and CSM Milford, TXARNG CDR and CSM, joined us along with COL Dement, G1, and CSM Weedon, the new State CSM. LTC Hart was our guest of honor and was able to recognize Soldiers from across our Command for extraordinary work in FY14.

In October, we also achieved all assigned Recruiting and Retention missions.

As a team, we enlisted 210 and extended (reenlisted) 204 members of the TXARNG. We also graduated 19 new Soldiers from Recruiter Basic Training (RBT) at Camp Mabry.

On 28 Oct, CSM Castorena, SGM Grantham, 1SG Thetford, 1SG Hebert travelled to Oklahoma City where SSG Strelsky, TM 9, RGN III was selected as the top Recruiter in 7 states and MSG Guerrero, TM 3, RGN I, selected as runner up NCOIC in the Region.

Yes, October was an incredible month filled with accomplishments by exceptional Soldiers. I have often said that REC RET CMD has the finest Soldiers in Texas. Your hard work and performance reinforces the fact that this is the Best Battalion to serve in - in the entire United States Armed Forces.

As the new Fiscal and Training year continues, our focus in November shifts to maintaining the momentum. We begin the task of training our RSP Warriors for success and making time for our families over the holidays.

Thank you for your dedication - for living by the Warrior Ethos and placing the mission first - for defending the values and standards we live by.

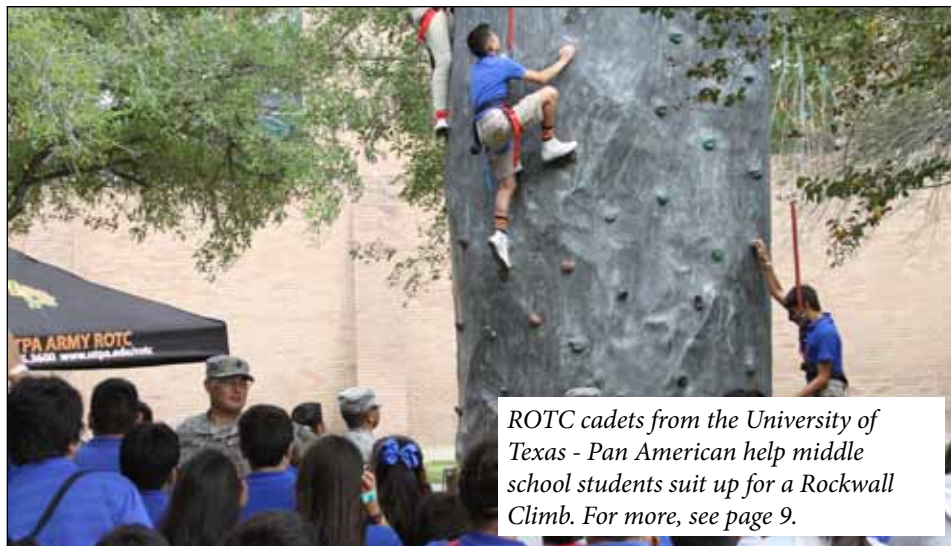


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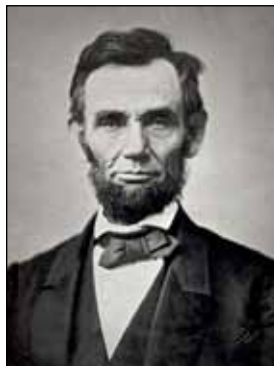
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■ MONTHLY INSPIRATION



"Whatever you are, be a good one."
-Abraham Lincoln



PARTNERING for YOUTH

TXARNG Recruiters forge partnership with Youth Challenge

A new partnership between the Texas Challenge Academy and the Texas Army National Guard's Recruiting & Retention Battalion looks to help at-risk youth graduate high school and prepare for a future as a happy, successful adult.

The Academy, which receives a majority of its funding from the National Guard, is designed to give second chances to high school students in danger of dropping out. As part of the curriculum, Academy cadets adopt a military lifestyle throughout the 5 1/2-month program. This helps cadets develop the discipline and leadership skills needed to finish high school and take their place as community leaders, according to retired COL Randall Davis of the TCA program.

While the cadets are subjected to military training and discipline, Davis said the program's primary goal is to help students regain education credits and skills needed to complete high school.

"We can take them and remotivate them," Davis said. "It's a school campus which also teaches military skills."

As part of the curriculum, Davis said students attend several hours of classes each day, earning credits toward their eventual high school diploma.

"For some, they're able to earn their

GED after they leave the Academy," he said. "For others, the goal is to get them back home and back into their high school class in time for graduation."

The program is free for the students and their families, and the Academy is accredited by the Texas Education Agency via a partnership with the Iraan/Sheffield Independent School District. Currently, students spend their 5 1/2-month residency at the TCA facility in the West Texas town of Sheffield, though a second academy will soon open to students in Eagle Lake.

With the Academy's military focus, Davis said the partnership with the National Guard is a natural fit, both for students and recruiters. Much like the military, TCA relies on recruiters to locate and enroll students in the program. Currently, TCA has six recruiters, who are co-

located with Texas Army National Guard recruiters statewide.

"The Department of Defense doesn't want the Academy to be a stepping stone to the military, but there is a natural interest by many cadets after graduation," Davis said.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



COL Suzanne Adkinson, commander of the Texas Counter-Drug Task Force, congratulates a graduate of the Texas Challenge Academy during a graduation ceremony in June 2013. Photo by CPT Martha Nigrelle, TXMF Public Affairs



A Texas Challenge Academy cadet drills with a rifle during a demonstration. Photo courtesy Texas Challenge Academy



Texas Youth Challenge Academy graduates toss their caps in the air following their successful completion of the Academy's 5 1/2-month residency program. TCA is set to double the amount of students it serves starting in 2015. Photo courtesy Texas Challenge Academy

“It’s not a boot camp. We are a school campus which also teaches students military skills.”

**- COL. RANDALL DAVIS (Ret.),
Texas Challenge Academy**

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TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Battalion Commander MAJ August Murray said National Guard recruiters will visit with the Academy’s cadets regularly and assist with locating eligible Academy candidates.

“The bridge here is our recruiters,” TXARNG Region III ISG Keary Mobley. “Our recruiters regularly go into the high schools where they can see the dropout list, and it is huge. If we can assist those people with getting into the Academy or GED programs, that may result in a future enlistment to the National Guard.”

Davis said the Academy’s commitment doesn’t end after cadets graduate. After

returning home, each cadet meets with a mentor for a full year, in order to help keep them oriented toward their short-term and long-term goals. Each cadet is also responsible for 40 hours of service in their community.

“We really wanted to give the students an opportunity to give back to their communities,” TCA Eagle Lake Director Lauren Schulman said. “We want the people in the communities to understand that young people can have a positive impact. Some of our best advertisements are those kids who are still out there, doing great things.”

The Texas Challenge Academy is now in its 18th year. Davis said the program includes two classes per year at each facil-

ity, geared toward students ranging in age from 16 to 18.

In Texas, the Academy program falls under the state’s Joint Counter-Drug Task Force. Even though the program has existed for nearly 20 years, Davis says it has remained one of the state’s best-kept secrets.

“And that shouldn’t really be the case,” he said. “We see kids out there all the time who are at risk of getting in trouble. All they need is some guidance.”

In order to be eligible for the Academy, prospective cadets must be between the ages of 16-18, be at risk of dropping out or already a dropout, and must not have a felony conviction on their record. For information, visit nygcp.org/state/TX.

HONORING THE BEST:

Recruiting Battalion presents yearly awards at Annual Training

More than 200 Texas Army National Guard recruiters, leaders, civilians and family members joined their colleagues at the Recruiting & Retention Battalion's 2014 Annual Training Dining Out and Awards Banquet at San Antonio's Lackland Air Force Base Oct. 25.

The annual ceremony is a rare chance for the state's recruiters to visit with colleagues, swap strategies and learn leaders' intentions for the coming year, according to Recruiting & Retention Battalion Commander MAJ August Murray.

The banquet is also an opportunity for the battalion's Soldiers to honor their own, Murray added.

Joining Murray was Texas Army National Guard Commander MG William Smith, TXARNG Command Sergeant Major CSM Richard Milford, TXARNG Personnel Director COL Darrell Dement, and 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Commander LTC Jason Hart, who preceded Murray as battalion commander.

Hart, who presented the evening's awards, was himself honored at the end of the night with a Lifetime Recruiter Certificate along with a framed Recruiting Battalion guideon.

For more photos, visit the TXARNG_Recruiting photo-stream at <https://flic.kr/ps/2WCiZN>

2014 RECRUITING & RETENTION BATTALION ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS:



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: SSG Ashley Jeanes, RGN III, Team 18



QUALITY BOOTS: SSG Richard Strelsky, RGN III, Team 9



ON-CAMPUS RECRUITER OF THE YEAR: SSG Richard Strelsky, RGN III, Team 9



STRENGTH MANAGER OF THE YEAR: SFC Steven Reeves, 36th CAB



SUPPORT SOLDIER OF THE YEAR: SFC
Chad Thibodeaux, S8 Budgeting



SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:
Ms. Lucia Stanley, S5 Marketing



SUPPORT SECTION OF THE YEAR:
S8 Budgeting



**HQ PRODUCTION ANNUAL MISSION
AWARD:** Officer Strength Management



**HQ PRODUCTION ANNUAL MISSION
AWARD:** RCT/IST



TOP RSP SITE: RGN I, Team I



TOP MEPS: SFC Calvin Makowski, SFC Tracy LaRock, Mr. Danny Lavender, Mr. Curtis Bailey



TOP RETENTION TEAM: RGN IV, Team 14



TOP REGION: Region IV



TOP TEAM: RGN I, Team 3



DIRECTOR'S 54: SSG Richard Strelsky, RGN III, Team 9



LIFETIME RECRUITER: LTC Jason Hart, I-141 Infantry Battalion

Red, White & BLUE

Photos by ILT Rachel Petruska-Olson,
S5 Marketing OIC



A TXARNG recruit rehearses his role in the Cowboys' Salute to the Military halftime show.



Members of the Texas Army National Guard joined their peers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines during the halftime show at the Cowboys' game against the Arizona Cardinals Nov. 2.

TXARNG troops take part in Cowboys' Salute to Military

Recruiters from the Texas Army National Guard joined active-duty Soldiers and service members from the Marines, Air Force and Navy at the Dallas Cowboys' Salute to the Military game Nov. 2 at AT&T Field.

Military members took part in a half-time display during the Cowboys' game against the Arizona Cardinals, holding several brightly-colored stars in red, white and blue. Service members also provided a color guard for the game, which was attended by nearly 80,000 football fans.



It's not every day Soldiers can do push-ups on the Cowboys' turf. A TXARNG member competes against a comrade-in-arms during rehearsals for the Nov. 2 halftime show.

BATTLIN' BOTS



SFC Stephen Valdez, Region IV, Team 16, stands with a robots competitor at the Hispanic Engineering, Science & Technology conference in Edinburg Oct. 9. Photos by Chris Porter, S5 Marketing

TM 16 joins UTPA ROTC to judge robot contest

Members of the University of Texas Pan American's ROTC program joined Team 16's SFC Stephen Valdez to judge a youth robotics competition at the Hispanic Engineering, Science & Technology Conference Oct. 9 in Edinburg.

Several future Texas Army National Guard officers helped judge the contest, which featured young robotics experts from middle schools around the Rio Grande Valley, Valdez said.

During the contest, builders paired off

and competed to see whose robot could force its opponent out of a 3-foot circular platform. Teams were judged on how well each robot used its programming to defeat foes.

As part of the conference, Team 16 set up a rock-climbing wall to test visitors' skills, and challenged passersby to push-up contests in exchange for National Guard-themed giveaways.

More than 35,000 students and residents attended the week-long conference.



ROTC members from UTPA helped judge the robot battles, which called for competitors' bots to force their opponents from a circular platform.



Team 16's rock-climbing wall was another featured attraction at the conference.

HAPPENINGS

Battalion welcomes MAJ Carney as new XO

Soldiers from the Texas Army National Guard's Recruiting & Retention Battalion welcomed MAJ Jim Carney, who took over as the battalion's executive officer following the appointment of former XO MAJ August Murray as battalion commander.

Carney joins the battalion from the 536th Brigade Support Battalion, where he served as the XO and FTUS OIC for the past 26 months. Carney is a logistics officer, who has a diverse background in both the active component and TXARNG. His previous assignments include platoon leader and shop officer in the 2nd ID, Korea; troop XO and staff officer with the 3d ACR, Fort Carson; Battalion S-2/3 with the 449th ASB, commander of C Co, 249th MSB, RSP operations officer and OSM, TXARNG RRC; Deputy Inspector

General, Texas Military Forces, and XO, Agribusiness Development Team 5 while deployed to Afghanistan.

Carney is a third generation Soldier who received his commission from the Army ROTC program at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI; and his masters degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a graduate of the Air Assault School, Ordnance Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Intermediate Level Education, and the Advanced Operations Course.

Carney is happily married with two great kids, and lives in Georgetown. The Carneys enjoy running, cycling, triathlons, and skiing. He is a self-described baseball nerd, and can regularly be found cheering for the Longhorns on Saturdays



MAJ Carney and wife Lis

and the Super Bowl XVI champion Green Bay Packers on Sundays.



TXARNG RR Bn. recognizes newest recruiters

The Texas Army National Guard Recruiting Battalion recently recognized the graduates of the first Recruiter Basic Training course for Fiscal Year 2015. The new recruiters have already assumed their posts at locations across the state, and were honored with a ceremony at Camp

Mabry Oct. 15.

Pictured are:
SSG William Phillips; SSG Michael Plum; SSG Robert Reeves; SSG Derek Tarlton; SSG Diane Wagoner; SGT Dakota Weaver; SGT Marlon Barrios; SGT

Byron Slate; SGT Tyrus Chonguia; SGT Edward Mendez; SGT James Spurlock; SGT Joshua Sterling; SGT Michael Turk; SPC Marie Brickley; SPC Julian Baranca; SPC Marco Luna; SPC Nathaniel Red and SPC Paul Simien.

Congratulations!

HAPPENINGS

OSM names newest officer-course graduates

The Texas Army National Guard on Sept. 25 welcomed the six newest Officer Candidate Course graduates at Fort Benning, Ga.

The new officers are:

- **2LT Lauren Brinkley** (Military Intelligence) - D Co. 156th BSB
- **2LT Christopher Branham** (Field Artillery) - HHB 3-133rd FA
- **2LT Corbett Brasington** (Quartermaster) - 112th BDE SPT Co.
- **2LT Clarissa Phalan** (Adjutant General Corps) - HQ & SPT Co., 36th ID
- **2LT Russell Cole** (Corps of Engineers) - HHC 156th BEB
- **2LT Raymond Bergez** (Corps of Engineers) - B Co 156th BSB

TXARNG will welcome three new officers in November.

The TXARNG Officer Strength Management staff in October also welcomed MAJ George Stalter, who joined the National Guard following 10 years as an active and Reserve Army officer.

Stalter appeared before the G1 Federal Recognition board, who approved him for his return to commissioned service. Stalter previously served as an officer in the Engineering Corps, and is set to return to duty as an Engineering Plans officers for the 36th Infantry Division headquarters in Austin.

During his prior service, Stalter deployed to Bosnia with the 1st Armored Division. Between his military service, Stalter spent 14 years working for BP in Houston.



MAJ George Stalter is congratulated upon his return to military service.

TXARNG names latest warrant officer candidates

The Texas Army National Guard's Officer Strength Management office has named the latest Warrant Officer Candidates:

Warrant Officer Candidate **Anthony Benavidez** has been recruited to fill a Warrant Officer Vacancy in the HHC 536TH SPT BN as a Information Services Technicians where he will supervise and manage information system assets associated with Automated Information Systems (AIS) and Internet Protocol (IP) Local Area Networks (LAN). He will assist in planning, development, implementation, and testing of a myriad of state-of-the-art,

real time voice and data tactical information systems. He will assist in developing policy recommendations and advise commanders and staffs on planning, installing, administering, managing, maintaining, operating, integrating and securing information systems on Army, Joint, Combined, and Coalition networks. (255A)

Warrant Officer Candidate **Christopher Schroeder** is one of our very first 353T - Military Intelligence Systems Maintenance/Integration Technician he will be filling a vacancy in the INTEL AND SUSTAIN CO HHB 36ID where

he will manages Intelligence Systems activities at field and sustainment levels. In conjunction with the Intelligence Systems Integration/Maintenance training program, repair parts stockpile levels, and the Repair Parts and Special Tools Lists (RPSTL). He will assist in coordination of technical, administrative, and logistical interface between the maintenance activity and supported units.

CW2 **Walton** is a former Captain converting to CW2. He is a transition from Georgia to Texas as a Blackhawk Pilot (UH-60L).

Recruiters taking part in holiday toy/clothing drive

Through its continued partnership with the Texas Army National Guard, this December, Rednecks with Paychecks Outreach will host its 2nd Annual Operation Santa event.

All clothing, toy, and canned good donations within Region I's DFW area will be delivered to the following foundations: Montague ISD, Forestburg ISD, Rural Volunteer Fire Department Toy Drive, Muenster's Sacred Heart Outreach and Saint Jo ISD. During the month of November, the

Randol Mill Armory and Keller Storefront will be collecting new to gently used children's clothing, new shoes of all sizes, packaged toys, and canned goods.

On December 1st, Team 4's SFC Danny Anderson will pick up all donations collected at both locations and deliver them to RWP Outreach on behalf of the TXARNG.

RWP Operation Santa will be held on December 7th starting at 11:30 a.m. at Heritage Park Pavilion, located at 301

North Ash Street in Muenster, TX. There will be silent and live auctions, a bounce house, a rock wall, Santa Claus, face painting, food, and live music by several top Texas Country artists. The Dallas-Fort Worth RSP communities are all encouraged to participate as involvement could help make a great Christmas for many less fortunate families around North Texas.

For more information, please contact SFC Danny Anderson at 817-367-0344.

NEED *to* KNOW

Calendar of Events

E-mail christopher.a.porter14.ctr@mail.mil to list your events

Texas Army National Guard Recruiters are scheduled to man booths at the following events at locations across the state. Community members are invited to stop by to visit with recrecruiters and learn more about serving in the National Guard.

November 2014

Nov. 8 - Tailgating at UNT Football game, Denton - RGN II, TM 6

Nov. 8 - Henderson Syrup Festival, Henderson - RGN II, TM 7

Nov. 8 - RWB Veterans Run, College Station - RGN III, TM 9

Nov. 8 - Tailgating at TCU Football games, Fort Worth - RGN I, TM 4

Nov. 8 - Georgetown Airfest, Georgetown - RGN IV, TM 13

Nov. 9-12 - Wurstfest, New Braunfels - RGN IV, TM 14

Nov. 11 - McKinney Veterans' Day Celebration, McKinney - RGN II, TM 6

Nov. 13 - Dallas Veterans' Day Parade, Dallas - RGN II, TM 5

Nov. 13 - Statewide Job Fair, Temple - RGN II, TM 8

Nov. 15 - Tailgating at Texas A&M Football game, College Station - RGN III, TM 9

Nov. 15 - Old Town Katy Market Days, Katy - RGN III, TM 12

Nov. 15/29 - Tailgating at Texas Tech Football games, Lubbock - RGN I, TM 1

Nov. 15/29 - Tailgating at UT El Paso Football games, El Paso - RGN I, TM 3

Nov. 19 - Temple Holiday Parade, Temple - RGN II, TM 8

Nov. 20 - Food for Families, Temple - RGN II, TM 8

Nov. 22 - Tailgating at Baylor Football game, Waco - RGN II, TM 8

Nov. 22-23 - Recruit Sustainment Program Drill - statewide

Nov. 29 - Chuy's Christmas Parade, Austin - RGN IV, TM 13

December 2014

Dec. 1 - Lufkin Christmas Parade, Lufkin - RGN III, TM 9

Dec. 1 - B/CS Marathon, Bryan - RGN III, TM 9

Dec. 5 - Cypress Home Run Derby, Cypress - RGN III, Team 12

Dec. 6 - Tailgating at TCU Football game, Fort Worth - RGN I, TM 4

POINTS OF CONTACT

TXARNG Bde. Strength Management POCs

ARNG, DIV HQ, MED, TIOG	(512) 964-1361
136th MEB	(512) 517-6742
36th CAB (Austin)	(512) 422-6958
36th SUS BDE (Temple)	(254) 424-1039
72nd IBCT (Houston)	(512) 782-3847
71st BFSB (San Antonio)	(210) 787-9127
176th ENG BDE (Dallas)	(972) 804-2602
56th IBCT (Fort Worth)	(817) 343-8946

TXARNG Recruiting & Retention Bn. POCs

Education & Incentives	(512) 782-6084
AMEDD Recruiting	(512) 782-5269
Officer Strength Management	(512) 782-5491
OCS Recruiting	(512) 782-5882
Warrant Officer Recruiting	(512) 782-5547
Special Forces Recruiting	(903) 701-5207
Marketing	(512) 782-5165

Dec. 6 - Tailgating at Baylor Football game, Waco - RGN II, TM 8

Dec. 12 - Clear Creek ISD Military Skills Night - League City, RGN III, TM 11

The Last Word



Recruiting & Retention Bn. Commander MAJ August Murray presents a set of framed guideons to LTC Jason Hart, commander of 1-141 Infantry. Hart, former RR battalion commander, was honored at the battalion's Annual Training in San Antonio Oct. 25.